

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 2781

## 98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE FITZWATER (144).

6869H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To amend chapters 537 and 565, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to sports officials, with a penalty provision.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapters 537 and 565, RSMo, are amended by adding thereto two new sections, to be known as sections 537.900 and 565.062, to read as follows:

**537.900. 1. As used in this section, "sports officials" mean individuals who serve as referees, umpires, linesmen, and those who serve in similar capacities but may be known by other titles and are duly registered or members of a local, state, regional, or national organization which is engaged in part in providing education and training to sports officials.**

**2. Sports officials who officiate athletic contests at any level of competition in this state shall not be liable to any person or entity in any civil action for injuries or damages claimed to have arisen by virtue of actions or inactions related in any manner to officiating duties within the confines of the athletic facility at which the athletic contest is played.**

**3. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to grant the protection set forth to sports officials who cause injury or damage to a person or entity by actions or inactions which are intentional, willful, wanton, reckless, malicious, or grossly negligent.**

**565.062. Any person who physically assaults any sports official at any level of competition, within the confines or immediate vicinity of the athletic facility at which the athletic contest in which a sports official was an active participant shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. As used in this section, "sports official" means an individual who serves as a referee, umpire, linesman, and those who serve in similar capacities but may be known**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

6 by other titles and are duly registered or a member of a local, state, regional, or national  
7 organization which is engaged in part in providing education and training to a sports  
8 official.

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